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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,890	12/29/2005	Geert Willem Van Der Veen	NL030777	6754
24737	7590	01/16/2007	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			TRAN, CHUC	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2821	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/562,890	VAN DER VEEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chuc D. Tran	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/29/05</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ushijima et al (US 2004/0155596).

Regarding claim 1, Ushijima disclose a system in Fig. 2-5 for operating a plurality of loads (C) having a negative dynamical impedance using a common power source (Page 4, Col. 2, Line 58) (Page 5, Col. 1, Line 1-4); the system comprising N branches (Fig. 3) connected in parallel between a first input node (Fig. 3) and a second input node (Fig. 3), N being an integer larger than 2 (Fig. 3); wherein each branch comprises a load arrangement containing at least one load connected in series (Fig. 3); the N load arrangements being selected such that, if each branch conducts the same current, the voltage drops over all loads are mutually substantially equal (Page 10, Col. 2, Line 18-31); the system further comprising current equalizing means (Td) for ensuring that the currents in all branches are mutually substantially equal (Page 13, Col. 1, Line 12).

Regarding claim 2, Ushijima disclose that said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of N-1 current equalizing devices (Fig. 4), wherein N-i pairs of branches (Fig. 5) are always coupled together through one associated equalizing device (Td) (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 3, Ushijima disclose that the current equalizing devices comprise equalizing transformers (Fig. 5), and wherein each equalizing transformer (Td) has one winding (Fig. 5) connected in series with the load arrangement (Fig. 5) of a first branch (Fig. 5) and has another winding (Fig. 5) connected in series with the load arrangement (Fig. 5) of a second branch (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 4, Ushijima disclose that an N-th equalizing device (Td) coupling together an N-th pair of branches (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 5, Ushijima disclose that the current equalizing devices comprise equalizing transformers (Td) (Fig. 5), and wherein each branch (Fig. 5) comprises a series arrangement of one load arrangement (C) and two windings (Fig. 5) of corresponding transformers (Td) (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 6, Ushijima disclose that said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of N-1 equalizing transformers (Td) (Fig. 5), wherein an equalizing transformer (Td) has one winding (Fig. 5) connected in series with one load arrangement (C) and has another winding (Fig. 5) connected in series with a parallel arrangement of a plurality of load branches (Fig. 5)).

Regarding claim 7, Ushijima disclose that said parallel arrangement of a plurality of load branches (Fig. 5) comprises another equalizing transformer (Td) having a first winding connected in series with one load arrangement (C) and having another winding connected in series with a parallel arrangement of at least one load branch (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 8, Ushijima disclose that said first equalizing transformer (Td) has its other winding connected in series with a parallel connection of the two windings of said other equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 9, Ushijima disclose that said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of $(1/2) \cdot N \cdot (N-1)$ current equalizing devices (Td) (Page 8, Col. 2, Line 28), each pair of branches always being coupled together through one associated equalizing device (Td) (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 10, Ushijima disclose that each branch comprises a series arrangement of a load arrangement (C) and at least one winding of at least one equalizing transformer (Td), wherein said load arrangement (C) is arranged between a high-voltage input node (Fig. 7) and said at least one winding of said at least one equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 7).

Regarding claim 11, Ushijima disclose that a load comprises a gas discharge lamp (C) (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 12, Ushijima disclose that all loads (C) are mutually substantially identical (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 13, Ushijima disclose that $N=3$ (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 14, Ushijima disclose that an input terminal connected to the first input node (Fig. 3) for coupling to an output terminal of a high frequency driver (SW) (Fig. 8), and having a plurality of lamp sockets for receiving lamps (C) (Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 15, Ushijima disclose that an input connector for coupling to a lamp socket of a high frequency driver (SW) (Fig. 8), the input connector having a design similar to a lamp fitting or a lamp foot (Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 16, Ushijima disclose that a first input terminal connected to a first contact of a lamp socket (Fig. 5); a second input terminal connected to a first terminal of a first winding of an equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 5); a third input terminal connected to a second terminal of the first winding of the equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 5); a fourth input terminal connected to a first terminal of a second winding of the equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 5); a second contact of the lamp socket being connected to a second terminal of the second winding of the equalizing transformer (Td) (Fig. 5).

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuc D. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F Flex hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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TC

January 8, 2007

THO PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER